

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

This amendment is being filed as part of an RCE application. The claims are directed to the same invention and the amendments present no new matter. For convenience, a clean set of the amended claims is attached.

Claims 1-9 were rejected as obvious over GHANI 2002/0085029 in view of MASSAND 2004/0085354.

Claims 10-13 were rejected as anticipated by GHANI.

Applicants appreciate the Response to Arguments provided by the Official Action. However, it is not clear that the previous response was fully reviewed and appreciated. Page 2 of the Official Action states that "the conversion into an intermediate format is equivalent to applicant (sic) invention." This statement is not understood. It is important that the claims be examined for what they recite, rather than the examination be a general evaluation of the prior art as compared to the application specification.

For example, claim 1 now recites "one of the terminal users, referred to as the organizer and operating an organizer-user terminal, connecting the organizer-user terminal to a dedicated server, the organizer drawing-up of a list of surnames, first names, and electronic addresses of other users, the other users referred to as invited users, ...".

GHANI paragraph [0059], lines 1-3 has been offered for the list of participants for sessions and paragraph [0040], lines 1-4 for the list of documents. While these passages may refer to a list of participants and documents, they do not disclose what is recited, i.e., the "one of the terminal users, referred to as the organizer ... drawing-up of a list of surnames, first names, and electronic addresses of other users, the other users referred to as invited users, ...".

See in claim 8 the similar recitation of "- a session organizer module for i) drawing up, by one of the terminal users, referred to as the organizer, a list of surnames, first names, and electronic addresses of other terminal users, referred to as invited users, ...".

More precisely, in part 3.1 of the Official Action, the Examiner states that one of the arguments of the response is that the feature "the set of electronic documents to be distributed in their different original formats" was not disclosed in GHANI.

Applicant has carefully reviewed the response and it appears that the response did not contain such an assertion. In fact, the previous feature was only highlighted in the response as a feature of the present invention.

In part 3.2 of the Official Action, the Examiner offers [156], [158] and [159] of GHANI for the claimed feature "converting each of the electronic components to be distributed

into a plurality of successive current pages in a unique HTML format".

A similar feature is included in amended claim 1: "the dedicated server converting each of the electronic documents into a plurality of HTML pages in a unique HTML format".

However, the cited paragraphs only disclose a user terminal with an Internet browser and applets.

According to [181], the applets are installed in order to have access to slides from a server.

According to [118], the slides are obtained by conversion of Microsoft PowerPoint slides. The actual format of the slides is not indicated in GHANI.

Therefore, the cited paragraphs clearly do not disclose the conversion of each of the electronic documents into a plurality of HTML pages in a unique HTML format.

Moreover, it is well known that an Internet browser is able to access HTML pages. The fact that applets are needed in order to access the slides from the server indicates that the slides are not HTML pages in a unique HTML format but are in another format other than HTML.

Therefore, the cited paragraph do not disclose or suggest the conversion of each of the electronic documents into a plurality of HTML pages in a unique HTML format.

In part 3.3 of the Official Action, the Examiner offers [42] and [44] for the claimed feature "transmitting, from the

said organizer-user terminal, to the said dedicated server, the selected set of electronic documents in their different original format, accompanied by the list of the other invited users".

A similar feature is included in claim 1: "transmitting, from the organizer-user terminal, to the dedicated server, the selected electronic documents and the drawn-up list of the other invited users".

However, neither [42] nor [44] discloses a list of other invited users.

In part 3.6 of the Official Action, the Examiner explains how GAHNI would disclose the conversion of content from multiple formats into an HTML format.

It seems that the Examiner thinks that any web base display environment implies the use of an HTML format.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

As explained before, GHANI discloses a web browser with applets for accessing slides in an unknown format (which slides seem however related to Microsoft PowerPoint format).

The display in GHANI may be considered as a web based display, in the sense that it uses a web browser.

However, this does not imply the use of the HTML format. On the contrary, the HTML format is one markup language for web pages, but not the only one (see the enclosed definition of HTML from Wikipedia).

Furthermore, an applet is written in a language that is different from the HTML language (see the enclosed definition of an Applet from Wikipedia). For instance, according to [154], the applets use the Java language.

Still furthermore, an applet is embedded in the browser, and provides functionality or performance beyond the default capabilities of the browser (see again the enclosed definition of an Applet from Wikipedia).

Therefore, the argument of the Examiner according to which a "web based display implies that a HTML format is used" is wrong and, as explained previously, GHANI does not disclose explicitly or implicitly the conversion of documents in different formats into HTML pages.

The applicant once again stresses that one goal of the invention is to avoid the use of Applet in sessions of web conference, which is exactly the case in GHANI (see [5], [6] and [7] of the specification).

This goal is achieved by conversion of the documents into HTML page, because HTML pages can be accessed by most, if not all, Internet browsers.

In summary, only the present invention teaches a organizer-user terminal transmitting to a dedicated server a selected of electronic documents and the drawn-up list of the invited users, where the dedicated server:

i) converts each of the selected electronic documents into a plurality of HTML pages in a unique HTML format,

ii)transmits to each invited user an invitation message concerning a session, the invitation message comprising at least an address of the dedicated server and a date and a time, and

iii) conditionally authorizes, for each connected user terminal, an access to the plurality of HTML pages in the unique HTML format (based on each of the invited user terminals connecting to the dedicated server for the session on the date and at the time, by using the address of the dedicated server).

This analysis of the novel and non-obvious differences of the claims applies also to claims 8 and 10.

As neither GANHI nor MASSAND teach or suggest such a combination of features, each of the claims is believed to be both novel and non-obvious. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are therefore respectfully requested.

This amendment is believed to be fully responsive and its entry is solicited. Allowance of the case is solicited.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application; the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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REL/fb

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A method for distributing electronic documents of different formats between different users of terminals, the method comprising the steps of:

one of the terminal users, referred to as the organizer and operating an organizer-user terminal, connecting the organizer-user terminal to a dedicated server,

the organizer drawing-up of a list of surnames, first names, and electronic addresses of other users, the other users referred to as invited users,

the organizer selecting electronic documents of different formats to be distributed,

transmitting, from the organizer-user terminal to the dedicated server, the selected of electronic documents and the drawn-up list of the invited users,

the dedicated server converting each of the selected electronic documents into a plurality of HTML pages in a unique HTML format,

the dedicated server transmitting, to a terminal of each invited user, an invitation message concerning a session, the invitation message comprising at least an address of the dedicated server and a date and a time,

based on the invitation message, each of the invited user terminals connecting to the dedicated server for the session

on the date and at the time, by using the address of the dedicated server, and

the dedicated server conditionally authorizing, for each connected user terminal, an access to said plurality of HTML pages in the unique HTML format.

2. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

the organizer communicating to the dedicated server general information concerning the session.

3. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

attribution by the organizer of specific rights of action to each of the invited user terminals, the specific rights of action comprising at least the right of consultation only or the right of consultation and addition of electronic documents distributed in the course of the session.

4. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of the dedicated server authorizing access comprises the dedicated server authenticating each user of the connected user terminals.

5. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the access to the plurality of HTML pages is a synchronized access, so that all the user terminals have access to the same HTML page, referred to as the current HTML page.

6. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 5, wherein the current HTML page is controlled on the initiative of each of the organizer and/or the invited user terminals, each user in the session being enabled to control and/or change the current HTML page accessed by each user terminal participating in the session.

7. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the access by each of the terminals to the dedicated server is executed by means of a periodic interrogation of the dedicated server.

8. (previously presented) A server for distributing electronic documents of different formats between different users of terminals, the server comprising:

- a session organizer module for

- i) drawing up, by one of the terminal users, referred to as the organizer, a list of surnames, first names, and electronic addresses of other terminal users, referred to as invited users, and

ii) selecting electronic documents of different formats to be distributed,

- a module for receiving the selected electronic documents to be distributed,

- a module for converting each received electronic document into a plurality of HTML pages in a unique HTML format,

- a module for transmitting an invitation message to each of the invited user terminals to participate in a session, each invitation message comprising at least the address the server and a date and a time of the session, and

- a module for conditionally authorizing each invited user terminal that connects to the server on the date and at the time by using the address of the server, an access to the plurality of HTML pages.

9. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 8, wherein each invitation message further comprises a password dedicated to the session and to each of the organizer and the invited user terminals.

10. (previously presented) A method for user terminals accessing a set of HTML pages on a dedicated server, the method comprising the steps of:

one of the user terminals, referred to as the requesting terminal, transmitting to the dedicated server, a

request for posting one of the HTML pages, referred to as the current HTML page,

the dedicated server transmitting the current HTML page to the requesting terminal,

the requesting terminal displaying the current HTML page,

the requesting terminal transmitting, to the dedicated server, a message for the propagation of the current HTML page to the other user terminals,

each of the terminals displaying the same HTML page,

each of the terminals transmitting to the dedicated server a periodic scanning message,

the dedicated server transmitting to each of the terminals a response message to the periodic scanning message, the response message comprising a reference of the current HTML page,

when the reference of the current HTML page is identical to the reference of the displayed HTML page, maintaining the posting of the displayed HTML page on each of the user terminals participating in the session, and

when the reference of the current HTML page is different from the reference to the displayed HTML page, i) each of the user terminals transmitting to the dedicated server a message requesting access to the current HTML page, ii) the dedicated server transmitting to each of the user terminals the

current HTML page, and iii) each user terminal posting the current HTML page.

11. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 10, wherein, a reference number comprising a unique serial number is attributed to each HTML page of the set of HTML pages, the reference number corresponding unambiguously to an address of the HTML page on the dedicated server, enabling access by each of the user terminals to be controlled according to rights of consultation only and of consultation and addition of electronic documents distributed by one of the user terminals, a reference comprising a successive serial number being allocated to each HTML page resulting from the addition of additional electronic documents.

12. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 10, wherein the periodic scanning messages are emitted by each user terminal participating in the session within a range of periods of between 3 seconds and 2 minutes.

13. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 11, wherein the periodic scanning messages are emitted by each user terminal participating in the session within a range of periods of between 3 seconds and 2 minutes.

APPENDIX:

- HTML definition from Wikipedia
- Applet definition from Wikipedia

HTML

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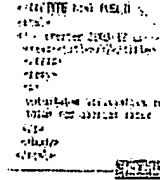
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

HTML, an initialism of HyperText Markup Language, is the predominant markup language for web pages. It provides a means to describe the structure of text-based information in a document — by denoting certain text as links, headings, paragraphs, lists, and so on — and to supplement that text with *interactive forms*, embedded *images*, and other objects. HTML is written in the form of tags, surrounded by angle brackets. HTML can also describe, to some degree, the appearance and semantics of a document, and can include embedded scripting language code (such as JavaScript) which can affect the behavior of Web browsers and other HTML processors.

HTML is also often used to refer to content of the MIME type text/html or even more broadly as a generic term for HTML whether in its XML-descended form (such as XHTML 1.0 and later) or its form descended directly from SGML (such as HTML 4.01 and earlier).

By convention, html format data files use a file extension .html or .htm.

HTML (HyperText Markup Language)



File extension	.html, .htm
Internet media type	text/html
Type code	TEXT
Uniform Type Identifier	public.html
Developed by	World Wide Web Consortium
Type of format	Markup language
Extended from	SGML
Extended to	XHTML

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Applet

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An **applet** is a software component that runs in the context of another program, for example a web browser. An applet usually performs a very narrow function that has no independent use. Hence, it is an *application -let*.

The term was introduced in AppleScript in 1993.

The word **applet** could alternatively be used to describe a small standalone application, such as those typically bundled with operating systems, for example a calculator program or text editor.

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Attributes

Applets and routines

An applet is distinguished from "subroutine" by several features:

- First, it executes only on the "client" platform environment of a system, as contrasted from "servlet." As such, an applet provides functionality or performance beyond the default capabilities of its container (the browser).
- Also, in contrast with a subroutine, certain capabilities are restricted by the container.
- An applet is written in a language that is different from the scripting or HTML language which invokes it. The applet is written in a compiled language, while the scripting language of the container is an interpreted language, hence the greater performance or functionality of the applet. Unlike a "subroutine," a complete web component can be implemented as an applet.

Applets and Programs

Unlike a program, an applet cannot run independently; an applet features display and graphics and often interacts with the human user. However, they are usually stateless and have restricted security privileges. The applet must run in a container, which is provided by a host program, through a plugin, or a variety of other applications including mobile devices that support the applet programming model.

Examples

Examples of applets are Java applets and Flash movies. Another example is the Windows Media